

II. The Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 40-45 and 56-59 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 5,714,596. Although Applicants do not agree with this rejection, in order to advance prosecution, a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 5,714,596 accompanies this response.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the double patenting rejection had been overcome.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below so that prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 03-1664. This, however, is not authorization to pay the issue fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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